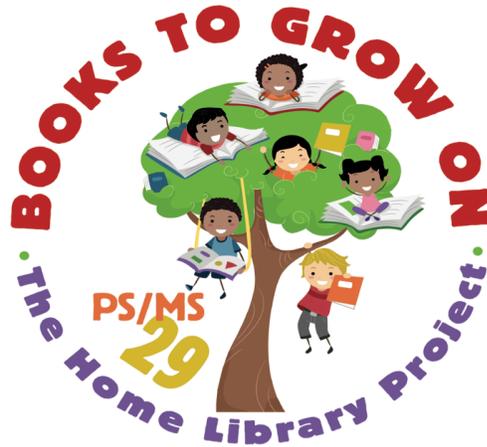


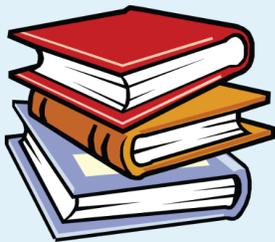
## Books to Grow On

2015-2016 Action Plan



September 2015

PS/MS 29- The Melrose School



### Stats

**“Creating a steady stream of new, age-appropriate books has been shown to nearly triple interest in reading within months.”<sup>1</sup>**

**“The most successful way to improve the reading achievement of low-income children is to increase their access to print.”<sup>2</sup>**

### What Is It?

*Books To Grow On* is a program at PS/MS 29, located in the South Bronx, where teachers and donors help our students build their own home libraries. Students in low-income neighborhoods often have lower academic achievement rates largely because they do not have the resources needed to succeed. With this program, our students will be able to build their own library of books that interest them.

The *Books To Grow On* pilot program was launched in 2013 in the First Grade classrooms at PS/MS 29. It was a huge success as shown by parent surveys, and student growth. That year, first graders jumped an average of 7 reading levels, with 72% of general education students reading at least at the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level. After the second year of the program, 77% of general education first grade students were reading at or above grade level by June, as compared to 38% in September. The second graders who were in the second year of the program maintained 72% of students reading at or above grade level.



## How Does It Work?

Each month, students choose 3 books from the Scholastic book catalog (which includes one common classroom book) to put in their home libraries. This will total 30 new books per child throughout the school year!

Donors will support a class for an entire school year by partnering with a teacher (partnership will be arranged by the school team). By working exclusively with Scholastic, classrooms earn points every month to spend on more books! Teacher and donors can work together to discuss how to most effectively use the bonus points from Scholastic.

Teachers and donors will work together to ensure that each child is given appropriate books to help them learn, succeed and develop a passion for reading. Throughout the year, students and parents will learn reading strategies to use at home so that our students can be more successful. Donors are encouraged to come meet the children during the school year, and possibly be a mystery reader!

*"Children who were read to at least three times a week by a family member were almost twice as likely to score in the top 25% in reading compared to children who were read to less than 3 times a week." 3*



## Calendar

**Oct 9** – Program Launch, initial parent surveys handed out, first book handout

**Nov. 13**- mystery reader, book handout

**Dec. 11**- mystery reader, book handout

**Jan 8** mystery reader, book handout

**Feb. 12**-mystery reader, book handout

**Mar.18**-mystery reader, book handout

**Apr,15**- mystery reader, book handout

**May.20**- mystery reader, end of year parent and student surveys, book handout

**Jun.24**- mystery reader, students receive summer bundles

**To become a classroom partner, please email**  
[Ksheehan@psms29.com](mailto:Ksheehan@psms29.com)  
or  
[Afletcher@psms29.com](mailto:Afletcher@psms29.com)

For the whole year, it costs about \$1300-1600 to be a classroom partner and help young children enhance their learning and develop passion for reading. However, the look of these students' faces when they receive their brand new books is priceless. Become a classroom partner today by following the e-mail instructions on the side bar!

## Testimonials

*"Books To Grow On has a tremendous impact on my students. It is truly amazing to see how excited they get when they receive new books, not to mention their skyrocketing reading levels!"- Katie Jones, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher*

*"My child comes home every day and goes straight to his book bin. He loves getting his new books!" 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Parent*

1. Harris, Louis. An Assessment of the Impact of First Book's Northeast Program. January 2003

2. Newman, Sanford, et al. "Americans Child Care Crisis: A Crime Prevention Tragedy"; Fight Crime; Invest in Kids, 2000

3. Denton, Kristen and Gerry West, *Children's Reading and Mathematics Achievement in Kindergarten and First Grade (PDF file)*, U.S. Department of Education, NCES, Washington,